

LVI.—*On the Varieties of Chalcides ocellatus, Forsk.*

By G. A. BOULENGER.

MATERIAL recently added to the Collection of the Natural-History Museum enables me to extend my remarks on the forms of *Chalcides ocellatus*. In this widely distributed Scink the number of rows of scales varies from 24 to 40, an amount of variation which is to be found in no other lizard. Although a splitting up into several species appears to me unwarranted, I think it, however, necessary to recognize the several forms under special varietal names.

The following are the forms with which I am at present acquainted:—

A. Var. *Ragazzii*.

24 scales round the body. Greyish above, with an indistinct paler dorso-lateral band, but without spots except on the sacral region, hind limbs, and tail, which are ocellated as in the typical form; confluent black spots form a lateral band extending from the nostril to above the axilla, passing through the eye and above the ear-opening. From snout to vent 83 millim.

The only specimen examined was obtained at Assab by Dr. Ragazzi, and submitted to me for examination by the Marquis G. Doria.

B. Forma typica.

28–30 scales round the body. Olive or brown above, ocellated with black spots, sometimes confluent into irregular transverse bands, bearing central white dots or longitudinal shafts. Measures up to 140 millim. from snout to vent.

Ranges from the Algerian Sahara to Egypt, Syria, Cyprus, Arabia, Persia, and, according to J. A. Murray, to Sind.

C. Var. *tiligugu*, Gmel.

28–34 scales round the body (usually 30–32). Above olive or brown, with black and white ocelli, and a more or less distinct lighter lateral band, sometimes edged with black inferiorly. Stouter and larger than the preceding, reaching a length of 170 millim. from snout to vent.

Inhabits Sardinia, Sicily, and South Italy *, Algeria and

* Dr. F. S. Monticelli informs me that it occurs at Portici, near Naples.

Tunis, north of the Sahara, and the intermediate islands; also Tripoli, Egypt, North-west Arabia, and Abyssinia.

D. Var. *vittatus*.

30–34 scales round the body (usually 32). Bronzy brown above, without ocelli; a light upper and a black lower lateral band. From snout to vent 115 millim.

Only known from Tangiers, where no other form occurs.

E. Var. *polylepis*.

34–40 scales round the body (usually 36–38). Dark brown above, usually with a small round yellowish spot on each scale; sides of neck with vertical black and white bars, which disappear in the adult. From snout to vent 150 millim.

Morocco. First noticed by Boettger from Casablanca, Mogador, and the city of Morocco. Nine specimens from the city of Morocco and four from Casablanca are now in the Natural-History Museum.

LVII.—On a new American *Species* of the remarkable animal *Phoronis*. By E. A. ANDREWS, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U. S. A.

Phoronis architecta, sp. n.

The following manifestly imperfect notice of an American form of the interesting genus *Phoronis* is published with the desire of calling the attention of embryologists to its existence in the hope that it may thus be the sooner known and perhaps included in a needed monograph of the group rather than from any desire of adding a new species to the present list of five or six, some of which are also insufficiently described.

The animal was found at Beaufort, N. C., in June 1885, inhabiting slender tubes standing upright in rather impure or muddy sand, both immediately in front of the building then occupied by the Chesapeake Laboratory and also upon "Shark Shoal."

The tubes are isolated and separate, each a clear, firm, chitin-like membrane passing down many inches into the sand and slightly projecting above its surface in regions laid bare at low water. The upper part of this tube is covered with a layer of sand, which seems as if selected, being composed of rounded grains of clear siliceous material with a few of milky quartz, and no dark grains at all.